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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1 (Currently Amended). A decoding protection method, for operating on
2 information which is transferred through a medium and comprises main data which are
3 to be decoded, the method comprising the steps of:
4 detecting medium protection data which are also transferred through said
5 medium;
6 limiting ~~reproduction~~ decoding based upon at least a film classification system;
7 generating apparatus protection data which comprise at least first apparatus
8 protection data and second apparatus protection data,
9 wherein said first apparatus protection data are specific to a region or a country
10 in which said main data are to be decoded and are unmodifiable by a recipient of said
11 decoded main data and said second apparatus protection data can be modified by the
12 recipient to selectively define a plurality of protection levels including at least two
13 levels which are respectively specific to adults and to children;
14 defining a protection level based on said medium protection data and on said
15 apparatus protection data, in combination; and
16 executing decoding of said main data in accordance with said protection level,
17 wherein the combination of said medium protection data and said first apparatus
18 protection data specifies that said main data are decoded either in their entirety or not

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19 at all, and the combination of said medium protection data and said second apparatus
20 protection data specifies that said main data are decoded in their entirety, partially, or
21 not at all,
22 wherein said data medium transfers both said medium protection data and said
23 main data in an identical form.

1 2 (Currently Amended). A ~~reproduction~~ decoding protection method in
2 accordance with claim 1, wherein both said medium protection data and said main data
3 are transferred in an identical form.

1 3 (Currently Amended). A ~~reproduction~~ decoding protection method in
2 accordance with claim 1, comprising the step of transferring said medium protection
3 data and said main data in an identical form.